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For more information contact: Suzanne Price, WIFA Communications Director
(602) 364-1314 or 1-877-298-0425 www.wifa.state.az.us

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Town of Clifton Receives WIFA Grant To Evaluate Replacement of Sewer Collection Lines

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (January 14, 2004) Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens today announced award of a \$10,000 technical assistance grant to the Town of Clifton. The town will contribute a local match of \$15,000.

Clifton plans to evaluate options to replace the sewer collection lines along State Highway 191 in South Clifton. Installed in 1919, the concrete sewer lines are located 19 – 22 feet below mine tailing along Wards Canyon Road.

“WIFA’s board of directors is pleased to support community efforts to replace its antiquated sewer pipes,” said Owens, who is also director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. “The grant will provide the technical evaluation required to bring the sewer lines up to code and reduce the potential of a pipeline break.”

The grant project, to be performed by Engineer’s Inc. of Silver City, NM, will include evaluation of videos, photos and related materials. Interviews with the town staff and other knowledgeable people about the sewer lines will also be conducted.

Once the best sewer pipeline replacement option is identified, the engineer will perform field work to develop a final plan and cost estimate.

Sewage is pumped through the lines to the Phelps Dodge wastewater treatment plant where it is treated and reused. There is no discharge to ground or surface waters.

WIFA formerly provided an \$8,000 technical assistance grant to evaluate Aquifer Protection Permit (APP) compliance alternatives for sludge drying beds at the Phelps Dodge treatment plant.

(more)

About the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) is an agency of the state authorized to finance the construction, rehabilitation and/or improvement of drinking water, wastewater, wastewater reclamation, and other water quality facilities/projects. Generally, WIFA offers borrowers below market interest on loans for 100% of eligible project costs.

As a "bond bank", WIFA is authorized to issue Water Quality Bonds on behalf of communities for basic water infrastructure. By pooling different entities' financing needs, WIFA provides significant savings through reduced borrowing amounts, lower interest rates, and shared/reduced closing costs.

WIFA's principal tools for providing low interest financial assistance include the Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWRF) for publicly held wastewater treatment projects and the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRf) for both publicly- and privately-held drinking water systems. Both funds are capitalized by contributions from the state and the US Congress. Presently Arizona receives about \$20 million in federal allocations annually for the wastewater and drinking water infrastructure construction improvements.

The formula used by Congress for wastewater allocations is based on 1970's data. If the formula were based on current population and infrastructure needs, the state would receive 4 or 5 times the current allocation of approximately \$9 million.